

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for charging intelligent network subscribers for message communication, ~~in which method comprising:~~

maintaining account data of a subscriber ~~is maintained~~ in the intelligent network,

forming a message communication charging file ~~is formed~~,

retrieving a message communication bill of the intelligent network subscriber ~~is retrieved~~, and

updating the account data of the subscriber ~~is updated~~ with the message communication bill,

wherein the message communication includes one or more messages sent from or to a mobile station without setting up an end-to-end connection.

2. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the subscriber is a subscriber using prepaid connection time, the method further comprising:

setting a limit value ~~is set~~ for credit data,

~~after an update, a check is made to see if checking whether~~ the account data is bigger than the limit value, and

~~if the account data is smaller than the limit value, blocking~~ the use of chargeable message communication services ~~is blocked~~ from the subscriber.

3. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the message communication bill retrieval and account data update is performed at predefined intervals.

4. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the account data of the subscriber is maintained in the intelligent network by maintaining a first set of account data on the subscriber's balance and a second set of account data on the buffer sums changing the balance, and

the account data of the subscriber is updated in two stages.

5. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein
[[-]]in the first stage, the account data is updated with the message
communication bill by adding it to the second set of account data, and
[[-]]in the second stage, the account data is updated utilizing a charging
mechanism of the intelligent network by replacing the first set of account data with the sum
of the first set and the second set of account data and by initializing the second set of account
data after that.

6. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein each stage is
executed at predefined intervals which need not be the same for both intervals.

7. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the message
communication is a short message communication.

8. (Currently Amended) A telecommunication system comprising
an intelligent network or a connection to an intelligent network,
a network transmitting short messages configured to provide message
communication, the message communication including one or more messages sent from or to
a mobile station without setting up an end-to-end connection, and
a first system means for generating configured to generate a message
communication charging file,
a memory for maintaining configured to maintain the account data of the
intelligent network subscriber,
wherein the system also comprises
a second system means for retrieving configured to retrieve the message
communication bill of the intelligent network subscriber from the charging file, and
an update system means responsive to the second system means for updating
configured to update the account data of the intelligent network subscriber with the message
communication bill.

9. (Currently Amended) A telecommunication system as claimed in claim 8,
wherein
the subscriber is a subscriber using prepaid connection time,

the update system means (SCP, SM Ch, CI) are is arranged to check after the update if the account data is bigger than the predefined limit value and, if the account data is not bigger than the limit value, to send information on this to the network transmitting message communication, and

the network transmitting message communication (PLMN) is arranged, as a response to the information, to block the transmission of chargeable short messages from said subscriber.

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10. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 9, the system further comprising at least one mediation device (MD) which, as a response to the information, blocks configured to block the transmission of chargeable message communication from said subscriber in response to the information.

11. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 8, 9, or 10, wherein the second system means are is adapted to retrieve credit data at predefined intervals.

12. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 8, 9, or 10, wherein the second system means (PSMCC) are is arranged to request the update system means to update the account data of the intelligent network subscriber, and the update system means comprise comprises a charging interface (CI) which is arranged to update the account data of the intelligent network subscriber as a response to said request.

13. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 8, 9, or 10, wherein the message communication is a short message communication.